

Widening of I-5 Addition of HOV Lanes Del Mar Heights Road to Vandergrift

OVERALL GOALS

- Reduce current and future traffic congestion on I-5 in the North San Diego Area.
- Increase traffic capacity and provide long range improvements planned for the enhancement of I-5.
- Provide High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to provide enhanced mobility for carpools and busses.
- Enhance goods movement between Mexico, San Diego and the Los Angeles area.
- Minimize environmental impacts while enhancing corridor scenic values and community character.

PROJECT MAP

NORTH COAST TRANSPORTATION STUDY

This project is the freeway component recommendation of the Draft North Coast Transportation Study that was conducted by SANDAG. The Draft North Coast Transportation Study included all modes of transportation within the corridor and made recommendations on transit improvements, both commuter rail and bus, arterial road improvements including intersection improvements and the use of Intelligent Transportation Systems technology as well as freeway improvements.

THE PROJECT

The project will construct HOV lanes in each direction between Del Mar Heights Road and Vandegrift Boulevard/Harbor Drive in the existing I-5 median.

This will be a continuation of the HOV lanes under construction between the I-5/I-805 merge and Del Mar Heights Road. HOV lanes are consistent with the regional HOV plan, which will also tie into the Orange County HOV system. The project will also add two additional general travel lanes in each direction between Del Mar Heights Road and Encinitas Boulevard and one additional general travel lane in each direction between Encinitas Boulevard and Vandegrift Boulevard/Harbor Drive. Auxiliary and truck climbing lanes will be added where needed to provide adequate capacity and a weave area for entering and exiting traffic.

TRAFFIC

The average daily traffic volume near Del Mar Heights Road, the highest use area, is currently 224,000. The portion of I-5 between Encinitas and I-805 is currently congested in the peak hours of travel today. It is forecast that by the year 2020 traffic near Del Mar Heights Road will carry 345,000 vehicles. This project improvement will meet the future traffic needs with the improvements proposed in the Draft North Coast Transportation Study.

STATUS

Caltrans conducted public meetings in the cities of Carlsbad, Encinitas, Oceanside, and the Solana Beach/Del Mar area in Spring 2001. Preliminary engineering is underway.

